

Biodiversity Survey of Ballylongford Co Kerry 2020



By Geoff HuntOn behalf of Ballylongford Tidy Towns

Table of Contents

1	Intro	oduction	1
2	Sur	vey Area	2
3	Res	sults for Ballylongford	5
;	3.1	Birds	5
;	3.2	Butterfly and Moth	8
;	3.3	Hoverfly	9
;	3.4	Bees	10
;	3.5	Other terrestrial invertebrates	11
	3.6	Aquatic invertebrates	12
	3.7	Fish	13
;	3.8	Mammals	14
;	3.9	Plants	15
;	3.10	Fungi	19
;	3.11	Algae	20
Dis	scussi	on	21
;	3.12	Species results	21
;	3.1	Birds	22
	3.1.	1 Threatened Species and Protected Species	22
	3.1.	2 Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (BOCCI)	23
	3.1.	3 Previously Recorded Bird Species	23
	3.1.	4 Waterbirds	24

	3.1.	1.5 Turtle Dove	26
	3.1.	1.6 Chough	27
	3.1.	1.7 Wheatear	27
	3.1.	1.8 Mediterranean Gull	28
	3.1.	1.9 Cormorant Roost	29
	3.2	Mammal list	30
	3.3	Butterfly list	30
	3.4	Hoverfly List	30
	3.5	Flowering Plants	30
	3.6	Fungi	30
4	Cor	onclusion	31
5	Ref	eferences	31
	5.1	Appendix	32

List of Figures

Figure 1 - Little Egret Egretta gazetta	. 1
Figure 2 - Carrigafoyle Castle	. 2
Figure 3 - High tide roost on Carrig Island	. 3
Figure 4 - Sketch Map of the Ballylongford	. 4
Figure 5 - Bar-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa	. 7

Figure 6 - Wall Brown <i>Lasiommata megera</i>	8
Figure 7 - Pied Hoverfly <i>Scaeva pyrastri</i>	9
Figure 8 Early Bumblebee Bombus pratorum	10
Figure 9 Robin's Pincushion <i>Diplolepis rosae</i>	11
Figure 10 - Broad-clawed Porcelain Crab <i>Porcellana platycheles</i>	12
Figure 11 - 3 Blenny - <i>Lipophrys pholis</i>	13
Figure 12 - Fox - <i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	14
Figure 13 - Bluebell - Hyacinthoides non-scripta	18
Figure 14 - Sulphur Tuft - <i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	19
Figure 15 - Sea Ivory - <i>Ramalina siliquosa</i>	20
Figure 16 - Species results	21
Figure 18 - Green Sandpiper - Tringa ochropus	24
Figure 19 - High tide roost of Redshank and Dunlin at Carrig Island	26
Figure 20 - Turtle Dove - <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	26
Figure 21 - Chough - <i>Pyrrhocorac pyrrhocorax</i>	27
Figure 22 - Wheatear - <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	27
Figure 23 - Mediterranean Gull - <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	28
Figure 24 - Cormorant - <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	29
Figure 25 - Cormorant roost	40
List of Tables	
Table 1 - Bird species recorded at Ballylongford	5
Table 2 - Butterfly and Moth species recorded at Ballylongford	8

Table 3 - Hoverfly species recorded at Ballylongford	9
Table 4 - Bee species recorded at Ballylongford	. 10
Table 5 - Other terrestrial invertebrate species recorded at Ballylongford	. 11
Table 6 - Aquatic species recorded at Ballylongford	. 12
Table 7 - Fish species recorded at Ballylongford	. 13
Table 8 - Mammals recorded at Ballylongford	. 14
Table 9 - Plant species recorded at Ballylongford	. 15
Table 10 - Fungi recorded at Ballylongford	. 19
Table 11 - Algae recorded at Ballylongford	. 20
Table 12 - Threatened and Protected Species	. 22
Table 13 - Red listed Species BOCCI	. 23
Table 14 - Previously recorded bird species	. 23
Table 15 - Monthly water bird counts 2019	. 24

1 Introduction

The aim of this survey was to collect records of species present at Ballylongford Q9747, Q9748,Q9847, Q9848,Q9944, Q9945,Q9946, Q9947 and R0046 County Kerry. The objective was to improve the number of species recorded at Ballylongford and to provide up to date records. The species lists include bony fish, bird, butterfly, dragonfly, hoverfly, other terrestrial insects and flowering plants.

The methods used include a telescope, binoculars, butterfly net, pond net, camera and visual sightings. The survey was carried out between January 1st 2019 and December 31st 2019, which included 16 Summer visits and 11 Autumn/Winter visits. This was done to maximise the number of records during all the seasons of the year. All records have been submitted to the National Biodiversity Data Centre in Waterford and will be included onto their online maps.

All photographs are by Geoff Hunt



Figure 1 - Little Egret Egretta gazetta .



Figure 2 - Carrigafoyle Castle

2 Survey Area

The town of Ballylongford is situated on the southern shores of the Shannon Estuary, which is part of the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA 004077[Special Protection Area]. Ireland is required under the terms of the EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) to designate Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for the protection of endangered species of wild birds.

- Listed rare and vulnerable species.
- Regularly occurring migratory species, such as ducks, geese, swans and waders.
- Wetlands, especially those of international importance, which attract large numbers of migratory birds each year.

More information can be found on the National parks and Wildlife Service website https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa

Ballylongford has a variety of habitats including large areas of mudflats, salt marsh and small woodlands with hedgerows, meadows and views of the majestic Shannon. A climb to the top of Carrigafoyle Castle is highly recommended. As the tide comes in birds are driven towards the shoreline and eventually roost on the river bank and nearby fields. When the tide is out the birds can be distant. However, the road leading to Carrigafoyle Castle and the Carrig Island bridge will give you good views. When the tide is in, some wading birds can be seen roosting on Carrig Island or along the rocky shoreline at Kenturk Point. During the winter months large flocks of Duck are scattered about over the entire area. It is worthwhile to walk out to the Battery on Carrig Island to look for Divers and Grebes that are present during the winter months. There are also two benches for you to sit and enjoy the view. The Saleen Pier and Sand Quay offer more views of the shoreline. There is a flooded field at Kilelton along the shoreline[see map, figure 3 page 3] which has produced some interesting birds of note. However this habitat is changing due to a drainage channel caused by the tide. The water is now flowing in and out at a much faster rate making it more tidal.



Figure 3 - High tide roost on Carrig Island

Ballylongford Tidy Towns Committee have commissioned this survey so as to create awareness of the Biodiversity that survives along side us as we live our daily lives. For this survey I have kept all my observations where there is public access [See figure 3 page 3].

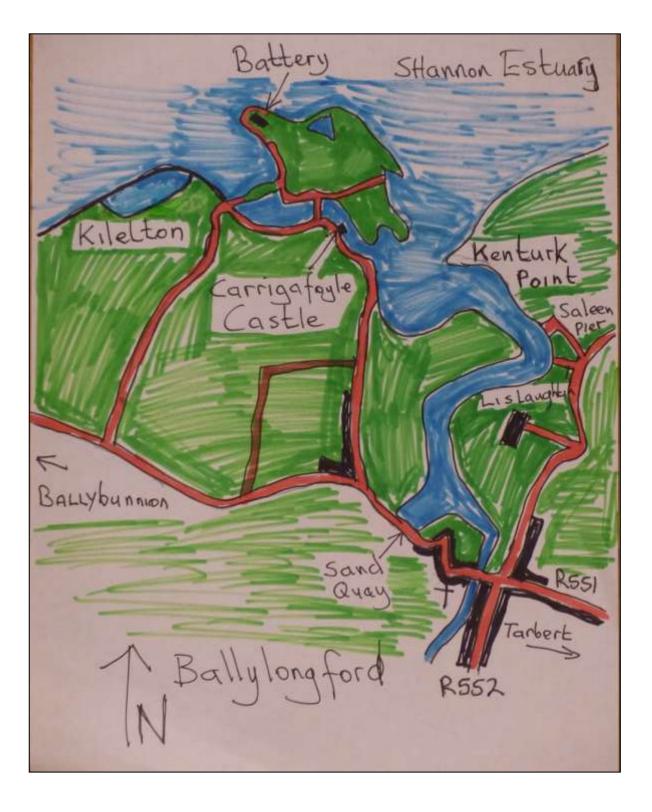


Figure 4 - Sketch Map of the Ballylongford

3 Results for Ballylongford

3.1 Birds

Table 1 below shows the 94 bird species that have been identified and recorded during this survey.

Table 1 - Bird species recorded at Ballylongford

Species Name	Scientific Name	Highest Count	Date	Comment
Water Birds		,		
Great Northern Diver	Gavia immer	1	27/01/2019	Wintering
Red-throated Diver	Gavia stellata	2	08/02/2019	Wintering
Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus	3	27/01/2019	Wintering
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis	1	02/02/2019	Wintering
Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	7	27/01/2019	Wintering
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	5	27/01/2019	Resident
Grey Heron	Ardea cineria	2	27/01/2019	Resident
Whooper Swan	Cygnus cygnus	15	24/02/2019	Wintering
Brent Goose	Branta bernicula	49	27/01/2019	Wintering
Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	77	27/01/2019	Resident/breeding
Wigeon	Anas penelope	780	27/01/2019	Wintering
Teal	Anas crecca	70	27/01/2019	Wintering
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	14	27/01/2019	Resident
Shoveler	Anas clypeata	4	08/02/2019	Wintering
Common Scoter	Melanitta nigra	1	27/01/2019	Wintering
Black Guillemot	Cepphus grylle	6	06/04/2019	Wintering
Razorbill	Alca torda	1	08/02/2019	Wintering
Gannet	Morus bassanas	11	21/09/2019	Wintering
Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus	12	27/01/2019	Resident
Dunlin	Calidris alpina	700	27/01/2019	Wintering
Knot	Calidris canutus	1	16/08/2019	Wintering
Sanderling	Calidris alba	27	21/09/2019	Wintering
Curlew Sandpiper	Calidris ferruginea	1	01/09/2019	Passage Migrant
White-rumped Sandpiper	Calidris fuscicollis	1	12/10/2019	Passage Migrant
Snipe	Gallinago gallinago	5	02/02/2019	Wintering
Bar-tailed Godwit	Limosa lapponica	6	27/01/2019	Wintering
Black-tailed Godwit	Limosa limosa	48	06/04/2019	Wintering
Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus	26	07/04/2019	Passage Migrant
Curlew	Numenius arquata	310	27/01/2019	Wintering
Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	550	27/01/2019	Wintering
Golden Plover	Pluvialis apricaria	800	27/01/2019	Wintering
Grey Plover	Pluvialis squatarola	21	27/01/2019	Wintering
Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula	46	27/01/2019	Wintering
Turnstone	Arenaria interpres	25	23/03/2019	Wintering
Redshank	Tringa totanus	40	27/01/2019	Wintering
Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	6	27/01/2019	Wintering
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	1	07/04/2019	Summering

5	0	200	07/04/0040	140 ()
Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	380	27/01/2019	Wintering
Mediterranean Gull	Larus melanocephalus	4	29/07/2019	Passage Migrant
Common Gull	Larus canus	4	27/01/2019	Wintering
Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	3	27/01/2019	Wintering
Greater Black-backed Gull	Larus	4	27/01/2019	Wintering
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Larus fuscus	7	06/04/2019	Wintering
Sandwich Tern	Sterna sandvicensis	4	07/04/2019	Summering
Common Tern	Sterna	1	16/08/2019	Migrant
Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	1	29/07/2019	Resident/breeding
Passerines				
Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	1	07/04/2019	Resident
Merlin	Falco columbarius	1	14/09/2019	Resident
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	2	21/09/2019	Resident
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	1	23/03/2019	Resident
Buzzard	Buteo buteo	1	19/12/2019	Wintering
Hen Harrier	Circus cyaneus	1	19/12/2019	Wintering
Rock Pipit	Anthus petrosus	1	27/01/2019	Resident/breeding
Meadow Pipit	Anthus pratensis	1	27/01/2019	Resident/breeding
Skylark	Alauda arvensis	1	08/02/2019	Resident/breeding
Swallow	Hirundo rustica	8	04/05/2019	Resident/breeding
House Martin	Delichon urbicum	4	05/05/2019	Summer/breeding
Sand Martin	Riparia riparia	6	31/07/2019	Passage Migrant
Pied Wagtail	Motacilla alba yarrelli	4	27/01/2019	Resident/breeding
Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinera	2	23/03/2019	resident/breeding
Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	4	23/03/2019	Resident/breeding
Turtle Dove	Streptopelia turtur	1	21/09/2019	Passage Migrant
Feral Pigeon	Columba livia	8	18/02/2019	Resident
Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus	30	29/07/2019	resident/breeding
Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus	2	23/03/2019	resident/breeding
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	4	23/03/2019	Resident/breeding
Robin	Erithacus rubecula	3	27/01/2019	Resident/breeding
Stonechat	Saxicola torquata	4	27/01/2019	Resident/breeding
Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe	2	04/05/2019	Passage Migrant
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	2	23/03/2019	Resident/breeding
Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus	1	27/01/2019	Resident/breeding
Redwing	Turdus iliacus	12	27/01/2019	Wintering
Blackbird	Turdus merula	3	27/01/2019	Resident/breeding
Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	2	04/05/2019	Summer/breeding
Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita	2	07/04/2019	Summer/breeding
Goldcrest	Regulus regulus	2	27/01/2019	Resident/breeding
Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	2	23/03/2019	Resident/breeding
Great Tit	Parus major	2	23/03/2019	Resident/breeding
Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	2	23/03/2019	Resident/breeding
Coal Tit	Parus ater	2	23/03/2019	Resident/breeding
Jackdaw	Corvus monedula	40	27/01/2019	Resident/breeding
Magpie	Pica pica	1	27/01/2019	Resident/breeding
Rook	Corvus frugilegus	50	27/01/2019	Resident
Hooded Crow	Corvus cornix	6	27/01/2019	Resident/breeding
Raven	Corvus corax	2	23/03/2019	Resident
. aron	301743 3014A	_	20/00/2013	ROOMONE

Chough	Pyrrhocorac pyrrhocorax	2	08/02/2019	Wintering
Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	6	23/03/2019	Resident/breeding
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	12	04/03/2019	Resident/breeding
Chaffinch	Frigilla coelebs	22	27/01/2019	Resident/breeding
Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	3	04/05/2019	Resident/breeding
Greenfinch	Carduelis chloris	1	01/12/2019	Resident/breeding
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	2	01/12/2019	Resident/breeding
Linnet	Carduelis cannabina	3	23/03/2019	Resident/breeding
Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus	2	08/02/2019	Wintering



Figure 5 - Bar-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa

3.2 Butterfly and Moth

Table 2 below shows the 12 Butterfly and 3 Moth species that have been identified and recorded during this survey

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Table 2 - Butterfly and Moth species recorded at Ballylongford

Aglais urticae	21/09/2019
Anthocharis cardamines	05/05/2019
Aphantopus hyperantus	06/07/2019
Celastrina argiolus	05/05/2019
Inachis io	05/05/2019
Lasiommata megera	02/08/2019
Maniola jurtina	06/07/2019
Parage aegeria	05/05/2019
Pieris napi	05/05/2019
Pieris brassicae	31/07/2019
Vanessa atalanta	21/09/2019
Vanessa cardui	06/07/2019
Zygaena filipendulae	02/08/2019
Macroglossum stellatarum	06/07/2019
Autographa gamma	06/07/2019
	Anthocharis cardamines Aphantopus hyperantus Celastrina argiolus Inachis io Lasiommata megera Maniola jurtina Parage aegeria Pieris napi Pieris brassicae Vanessa atalanta Vanessa cardui Zygaena filipendulae Macroglossum stellatarum



Figure 6 - Wall Brown Lasiommata megera

3.3 Hoverfly

Table 3 below shows the 16 species of hoverfly that have been identified and recorded during this survey.

Table 3 - Hoverfly species recorded at Ballylongford

Hoverfly					
	Cheilosia illustrata	06/07/2019			
	Epistrophe eligans	04/05/2019			
Marmalade Fly	Episyrphus balteatus	31/07/2019			
	Eristalis arbustorum	29/07/2019			
	Eristalis nemorum	01/09/2019			
	Eristalis pertinax	07/04/2019			
	Eristalis tenax	31/07/2019			
Migrant Hoverfly	Eupeodes corollae	04/05/2019			
	Eupeodes latifasciatus	31/07/2019			
	Eupeodes luniger	13/06/2019			
Pyjama Fly	Helophilus pendulus	07/04/2019			
	Melanostoma mellinum	06/07/2019			
Chequered Hoverfly	Melanostoma scalare	07/04/2019			
	Platycheirus albimanus	31/07/2019			
Pied Hoverfly	Scaeva pyrastri	29/07/2019			
Long Hoverfly	Sphaerophoria scripta	06/07/2019			



Figure 7 - Pied Hoverfly Scaeva pyrastri

3.4 Bees

Table 4 below shows the 6 bee species that have been identified and recorded during this survey.

Table 4 - Bee species recorded at Ballylongford

Bee		
Honey Bee	Apis melifica	05/05/2019
Heath Bumble Bee	Bombus jonellus	02/08/2019
White-tailed Bumble Bee	Bombus lucorum agg	05/05/2019
Carder Bee	Bombus pascuorum	05/05/2019
Early Bumble Bee	Bombus pratorum	05/05/2019
Early Nomad Bee	Nomada leucophthalma	04/05/2019



Figure 8 Early Bumblebee Bombus pratorum

3.5 Other terrestrial invertebrates

Table 5 below shows the 22 species of other terrestrial invertebrate species that have been identified and recorded during this survey.

Table 5 - Other terrestrial invertebrate species recorded at Ballylongford

Other Terrestrial invertebrates

Aeshna mixta	Migrant Hawker Dragonfly	04/10/2019
Andricus kollari	Gall Wasp	04/10/2019
Araneus diadematus	Garden Spider	04/10/2019
Armadillo vulgare	Common Pill Woodlouse	06/07/2019
Bibio marci	St Mark's Fly	05/05/2019
Chorthippus brunneus	Common Field Grasshopper	29/07/2019
Coccinella septempunctata	7-spot Ladybird	23/03/2019
Diplolepis rosae	Robin's Pincushion	01/09/2019
Haplophilus subterraneus	Centipede	06/07/2019
Lasius flavus	Yellow Meadow Ant	06/07/2019
Lithobius forficatus	Centipede	06/07/2019
Lumbricus terrestris	Earthworm	06/07/2019
Mesembrina meridiana	Noonfly	05/05/2019
Metellina segmentata	Spider	01/09/2019
Myrmica rubra	Red Ant	06/07/2019
Myrmica ruginodis	Red Ant	06/07/2019
Ocypus olens	Devil's Coach-horse	06/07/2019
Omocestus viridulus	Common Green Grasshopper	29/07/2019
Oniscus asellus	Shiny Woodlouse	06/07/2019
Palomena prasina	Green Shieldbug	01/09/2019
Pentatoma rufipes	Forest Shieldbug	01/09/2019
Philaenus spumarius	Cuckoo Spit	06/08/2019
Polydesmus angustus	Flat-backed Millipede	06/07/2019
Porcellio scaber	Rough Woodlouse	06/07/2019
Tachypodoiulus niger	White-legged Snake Millipede	06/07/2019
Vespula vulgaris	Common Wasp	04/10/2019



Figure 9 Robin's Pincushion Diplolepis rosae

3.6 Aquatic invertebrates

Table 6 below shows the 23 aquatic species identified and recorded during this survey.

Table 6 - Aquatic species recorded at Ballylongford

Aquatic invertebrates

Crustaceans

Cancer pagurus	Edible Crab	24/02/2019
Carcinus maenas	Shore Crab	24/02/2019
Dytiscus circumcinctus	Water Beetle	18/05/2019
Gammerus duebeni	Fresh water shrimp	18/05/2019
Gyrinus substriatus	Whirligig beetle	18/05/2019
Hediste diversicolor	Ragworm	24/02/2019
Ligia oceanica	Common Sea Slater	18/05/2019
Palaemon serratus	Common Prawn	18/05/2019
Pomatoceros triqueter	Worm	24/02/2019
Porcellana platycheles	Broad-clawed Porcelain Crab	24/02/2019
Xantho incisus	Montagu's Crab	24/02/2019

Molluscs

Actinia equina	Beadlet Anemone	18/05/2019
Calliostoma zizyphinum	Painted Topshell	01/02/2019
Chlamys varia	Variegated Scallop	18/05/2019
Ensis ensis	Razor Shell	24/02/2019
Gibbula umbilicalis	Flat Topshell	01/02/2019
Hinia incrassata	Thick-lipped Dog Whelk	18/05/2019
Littorina littorea	Common Periwinkle	01/02/2019
Littorina obtusata	Flat Periwinkle	01/02/2019
Ophiothrix fragilis	Common Brittlestar	18/05/2019
Ostrea edulis	Oyster	18/05/2019
Patella vulgata	Limpet	24/02/2019
Semibalanus balanoides	Acorn Barnacle	24/02/2019



Figure 10 - Broad-clawed Porcelain Crab Porcellana platycheles

3.7 Fish

Table 7 below shows the list of 4 fish species identified and recorded during this survey.

Table 7 - Fish species recorded at Ballylongford

Fish

Three Spined Stickleback	Gasterosteus aculeatus	05/05/2019
Blenny	Lipophrys pholis	24/092/2019
Butterfish	Pholis gunnellus	24/02/2019
Minnow	Phoxinus phoxinus	31/07/2019



Figure 11 - 3 Blenny - Lipophrys pholis

3.8 Mammals

Table 8 below shows the list of 3 mammal species identified and recorded during this survey.

Table 8 - Mammals recorded at Ballylongford

Mammals

Brown Hare	Lepus europaeus	16/08/2019
Bottled-nosed Dolphin	Tursiops truncatus	06/07/2019
Fox	Vulpes vulpes	16/08/2019



Figure 12 - Fox - *Vulpes vulpes*

3.9 Plants

Table 9 below shows the list of 144 plants species identified and recorded during this survey.

Table 9 - Plant species recorded at Ballylongford

Vascular F	Plants
------------	--------

Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	31/08/2019
Achillea ptarmica	Sneezewort	31/07/2019
Aesculus hippocastanum	Horse Chestnut	24/02/2019
Alnus glutinosa	Alder	24/02/2019
Anagallis arvensis	Scarlet Pimpernel	31/08/2019
Angelica sylvestris	Angelica	31/08/2019
Armeria maritima	Thrift	31/08/2019
Arum maculatum	Lords-and-ladies	23/03/2019
Asplenium ceterach	Rustyback	04/10/2019
Asplenium ruta-muraria	Wall-rue	31/08/2019
Asplenium scolopendrium	Hart's-tongue	23/03/2019
Asplenium trichomanes	Maidenhair Spleenwort	24/02/2019
Aster tripolium	Sea Aster	31/08/2019
Atriplex glabriuscula	Babington's Orache	13/06/2019
Atriplex patula	Common Orache	31/08/2019
Bellis perennis	Daisy	24/02/2019
Beta vulgaris	Sea Beet	04/05/2019
Betula pendula	Silver Birch	01/12/2019
Betula pubescens	Downy Birch	01/12/2019
Brassica rapa	Turnip	23/03/2019
Cakile maritima	Sea Rocket	13/06/2019
Calystegia sylvatica	Large Bindweed	29/07/2019
Cardamine hirsuta	Hairy Bitter-cress	23/03/2019
Centaurea nigra	Knapweed	29/07/2019
Centaurium erythraea	Common Centaury	31/07/2019
Cerastium fontanum	Mouse-ear	23/03/2019
Circaea lutetiana	Enchanter's-nightshade	31/08/2019
Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle	31/08/2019
Cirsium palustre	Marsh Thistle	31/08/2019
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle	23/03/2019
Cochlearia officinalis	Common Scurvygrass	31/08/2019
Convolvulus arvensis	Field Bindweed	29/07/2019
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	24/02/2019
Crocosmia. x crocosmiiflora	Montbretia	24/02/2019
Cymbalaria muralis	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	31/08/2019
Daucus carota	Wild Carrot	31/08/2019
Dryopteris filix-mas	Male-fern	23/03/2019
Epilobium hirsutum	Great Willowherb	06/07/2019
Equisetum arvense	Field Horsetail	23/03/2019
Euphorbia helioscopia	Sun Spurge	23/03/2019
Erysimum cheiri	Wallflower	31/08/2019
Fagus sylvatica	Beech	23/03/2019

Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed	24/02/2019
Ficaria verna	Lesser Celandine	23/03/2019
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet	13/06/2019
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	24/02/2019
Fuchsia magellanica	Fuchsia	05/05/2019
Galium aparine	Cleavers	23/03/2019
Galium saxatile	Heath Bedstraw	29/07/2019
Geranium dissectum	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	23/03/2019
Geranium molle	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	31/08/2019
Geranium robertainum	Herb-robert	23/03/2019
Geum urbanum	Wood Avens	04/05/2019
Hedera helix	lvy	24/02/2019
Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed	31/08/2019
Hyacinthoides hispanica	Spanish Bluebell	06/04/2019
Hyacinthoides non-scripta	Bluebell	06/04/2019
Hypericum androsaemum	Tutsan	29/07/2019
Hypericum perforatum	Perforate St John's-wort	31/08/2019
Hypericum tetrapterum	Square-stalked St John's-wort	29/07/2019
Ilex aquilfolium	Holly	24/02/2019
Iris pseudacorus	Yellow Iris	23/03/2019
Lamium purpureum	Red Dead-nettle	31/08/2019
Lapsana communis	Nipplewort	31/08/2019
Lathyrus pratensis	Meadow Vetchling	06/07/2019
Leucanthemum vulgare	Oxeye daisy	13/06/2019
Lolium perenne	Perennial Rye-grass	31/08/2019
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle	31/08/2019
Lotus corniculatus	Bird's Foot Trefoil	04/05/2019
Lotus pendunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil	29/07/2019
Lyceums barbarum	Duke of Argyll's Teaplant	23/03/2019
Lysimachia nemorum	Yellow Pimpernel	06/07/2019
Lythrum salicaria	Purple-loosestrife	06/07/2019
Matricaria discoidea	Pineappleweed	13/06/2019
Medicago lupulina	Black Medick	04/05/2019
Mentha aquatica	Water Mint	31/07/2019
Myosotis scorpioides	Water Forget-me-not	31/07/2019
Nasturtium officinale	Water-cress	06/07/2019
Odontites vernus	Red Bartsia	31/08/2019
Oenanthe crocata	Hemlock Water-dropwort	31/08/2019
Parietaria judaica	Pellitory-of-the-wall	31/08/2019
Persicaria maculosa	Redshank	06/07/2019
Picea abies	Norway Spruce	24/02/2019
Pinus pinaster	Maritime Pine	01/02/2019
Pinus radiata	Monterey Pine	31/07/2019
Pinus sylvestris	Scots Pine	31/08/2019
Plantago coronopus	Buck's-horn Plantain	23/03/2019
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	23/03/2019
Plantago major	Greater Plantain	31/08/2019
Plantago maritima	Sea Plantain	13/06/2019
Polygonum aviculare	Knotgrass	23/03/2019
Polypodium vulgare	Polypody	24/02/2019

Populus alba	White Poplar	31/08/2019
Potentilla anglica	Trailing Tormentil	29/07/2019
Potentilla anserina	Silverweed	31/08/2019
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	31/07/2019
Potentilla reptans	Creeping Cinquefoil	13/06/2019
Primula vulgaris	Primrose	23/03/2019
Prunus avium	Wild Cherry	23/04/2019
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	23/03/2019
Pulicaria dysenterica	Fleabane	31/07/2019
Quercus robur	Pedunculate Oak	04/10/2019
Raphanus raphanistrum	Sea Radish	18/05/2019
Rubus fruticosus agg	Bramble	04/10/2019
Ranunculus acris	Meadow Buttercup	24/02/2019
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	31/08/2019
Rumex acetosa	Common Sorrel	13/06/2019
Rumex crispus	Curled Dock	13/06/2019
Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved Dock	23/03/2019
Salix caprea	Goat Willow	31/07/2019
Salix fragilis	Crack-willow	23/03/2019
Sambucus nigra	Elder	06/04/2019
Senecio aquaticus	Marsh Ragwort	29/07/2019
Senecio jacobaea	Common Ragwort	23/03/2019
Senecio vulgaris	Groundsel	13/06/2019
Silene vulgaris	Bladder Campion	04/05/2019
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan	06/04/2019
Spartina anglica	Common Cord-grass	31/08/2019
Spergularia media	Greater Sea-spurrey	23/03/2019
Stachys sylvatica	Hedge Woundwort	29/07/2019
Stellaria alsine	Bog Stitchwort	06/07/2019
Stellaria graminea	Lesser Stitchwort	06/07/2019
Symphoricarpos albus	Snowberry	31/08/2019
Symphytum officinale x	Dunning Comfron	05/05/2019
asperum	Russian Comfrey	
Taraxacum agg.	Dandelion	31/08/2019
Tilia platyphyllos	Large -leaved Lime	31/08/2019
Torilis japonica	Upright Hedge-parsley	29/07/2019
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	31/08/2019
Trifolium repens	White Clover	31/08/2019
Tripleurospermum maritimum	Sea Mayweed	13/06/2019
Tussilago farfara	Correc	24/02/2019
Ulex europaeus	Gorse	23/03/2019
Ulmus glabra	Wych Elm	06/07/2019
Ulmus procera	English Elm Navelwort	06/07/2019 24/02/2019
Umbilicus rupestris		31/08/2019
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle	
Verbascum thapsus	Great Mullein Brooklime	31/08/2019 29/07/2019
Veronica beccabunga		04/05/2019
Veronica chamaedrys	Germander Speedwell Field Speedwell	23/03/2019
Veronica persica Vinca minor	Lesser Periwinkle	23/03/2019
vinca minor	LESSEI FEIIWIIIKIE	23/03/2019

Vicia cracca	Tufted Vetch	29/07/2019
Vicia sepium	Bush Vetch	04/05/2019
Viola riviniana	Common Dog-violet	06/04/2019



Figure 13 - Bluebell - Hyacinthoides non-scripta

3.10 Fungi

Table 10 Below show the 2 species of Fungi identified and recorded during this survey.

Table 10 - Fungi recorded at Ballylongford

Fungi

Lawyer's Wig Coprinus comatus 01/09/2019
Sulphur Tuft Hypholoma fasciculare 01/09/2019



Figure 14 - Sulphur Tuft - Hypholoma fasciculare

3.11 Algae

Table 11 Below show the 11 species of Algae identified and recorded during this survey.

Table 11 - Algae recorded at Ballylongford

Ascidiella	24/02/2019
Caloplaca marina	24/02/2019
Corallina officinalis	24/02/2019
Fucus serratus	24/02/2019
Fucus vesiculosus	01/02/2019
Halichondria panicea	24/02/2019
Laminaria digitata	24/02/2019
Pelvetia canaliculata	01/02/2019
Ramalina siliquosa	02/08/2019
Ulva lactuca	24/02/2019
Verrucaria maura	02/08/2019
	Caloplaca marina Corallina officinalis Fucus serratus Fucus vesiculosus Halichondria panicea Laminaria digitata Pelvetia canaliculata Ramalina siliquosa Ulva lactuca



Figure 15 - Sea Ivory - Ramalina siliquosa

Discussion

3.12 Species results

The figure below shows the total number of species recorded and for each group during this survey for Tarbert. These include 188 Animals, 144 Plants, 2 Fungi and 11 Algae species. A total of 345 species. The results of this survey show a Biodiversity richness of 345 species. Ballylongford has a large area of wetland habitats. Wetland habitats are known to hold more biodiversity richness than other kinds of habitats. This is reflected in the results of this survey.

Species Group Results

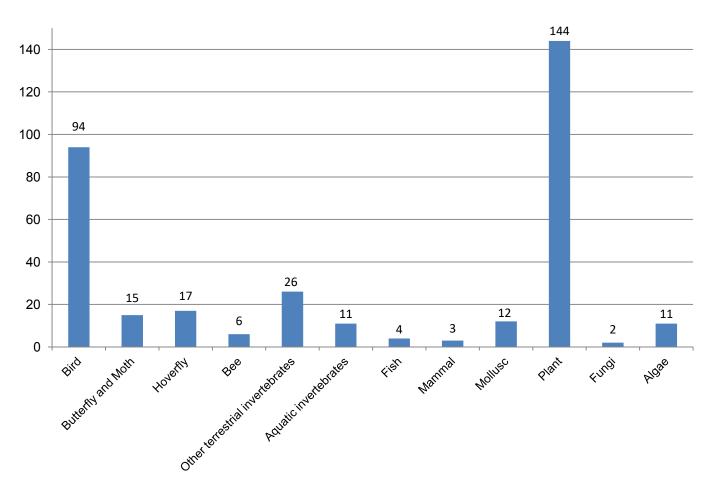


Figure 16 - Species results

3.1 Birds

The number of bird species recorded during this survey was 94. There are probably other bird species present but not recorded such as Barn Owl, Long-eared Owl, Spotted Flycatcher, Treecreeper, Long-tailed Tit and Fieldfare. These species maybe recorded in future surveys.

3.1.1 Threatened Species and Protected Species

Table 12 below show the list of 23 threatened and 22 Protected Species that were recorded during this survey. Ballylongford has 45 threatened or protected species that are surviving close to people.

Table 12 - Threatened and Protected Species

Threatened Species Protected Species

Cormorant Cormorant
Curlew Curlew
Dunlin Dunlin
Great Crested Grebe Little Egret

Black-headed Gull Great Crested Grebe
Lesser Black-backed Gull Black-headed Gull

Kestrel Lesser Black-backed Gull

Knot Kestrel
Kingfisher Knot
Lapwing Lapwing
Sand Martin Little Egret
House Martin Redshank
Linnet Skylark
Redshank Snipe

Skylark House Sparrow

Snipe Starling
House Sparrow Swallow
Starling Whooper Swan

Swallow Teal
Teal Wheatear
Wheatear Wigeon
Whooper Swan Wood Pigeon

Wigeon

3.1.2 Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (BOCCI)

Birdwatch Ireland records and maps the bird species of Ireland. They have published a list of birds that are of conservation concern within Ireland. Red listed species are of High Conservation Concern. Further information can be found on their web site at www.birdwatchireland.ie

Table 13 below shows the 12 Red Listed Bird species identified and recorded during this survey

Table 13 - Red listed Species BOCCI

Red Listed Species

Breeding Breeding and Wintering
Black-headed Gull Curlew
Common Scoter Dunlin
Grey Wagtail Golden Plover
Herring Gull Lapwing
Meadow Pipit Redshank

Wintering Shoveler Wigeon

3.1.3 Previously Recorded Bird Species

The Table 14 below show the list of 16 previously recorded bird species.

Table 14 - Previously recorded bird species

Previously recorded Bird spec	ies		
Blue-winged Teal	Anas discors	27/03/2013	Kilelton
Garganey	Anas querquedula	23/06/2010	
Black Duck	Anas rubripes	09/08/2013	Sand Quay
Long-eared Owl	Asio otus	24/06/2017	Kllelton
Scaup	Aythya marila	01/02/2016	Kenturk Point
Little Stint	Calidris minuta	27/08/2016	Kilelton
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Calidris pusilla	18/09/2010	Kilelton
Little Gull	Larus minutus	04/08/2013	
Jack Snipe	Lymnocryptes minimus	22/03/2015	
011		10/00/00/1	Ballylongford
Citrine Wagtail	Motacilla citreola	16/09/2011	Bay
Ruff	Philomachus pugnax	23/06/2009	
			Ballylongford
Black-necked Grebe	Podiceps nigricollis	06/02/2015	Bay
Spoonbill	Platalea leucorodia	24/07/2015	Kilelton
Long-tailed Skua	Stercorarius longiccaudus	25/08/2015	Carrig Island
Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola	04/08/2013	Kilelton
Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus	06/02/2105	Kllelton

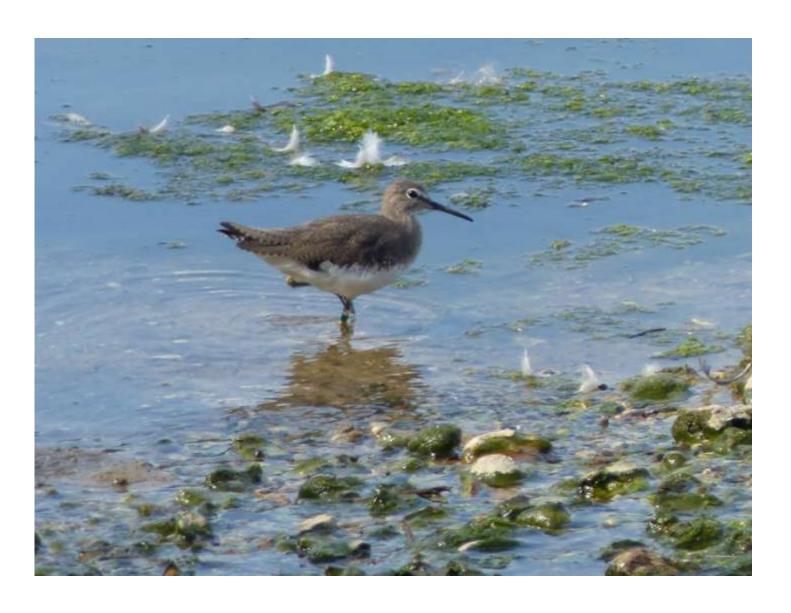


Figure 17 - Green Sandpiper - Tringa ochropus

3.1.4 Waterbirds

The presence of large numbers of water birds are indicators of a healthy habitat and a rich biodiversity within the area surveyed. The mudflats are hugely important for wintering birds, many of these birds would be returning year after year.

Table 15 on page 25 shows the monthly bird counts for 2019. It shows that there are water birds present all year round. The lowest counts recorded were in May(21) and June(23) whilst, the highest were in November(5207), December(6209) and January(3997). The vast majority of these birds are not breeding in the area and are migrant birds from mainly Iceland and mainland Europe. These birds are not present during the summer months due to lack of breeding habitat. Migrating birds start to arrive in late July. Some of these birds will stay for a while to feed and then move on further south, whilst the majority will stay for the winter. A total of 47 water bird species were recorded and identified during this survey 2019.

Table 15 - Monthly water bird counts 2019

Species Name	Scientific Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Water Birds													
Great Northern Diver	Gavia immer	-	5	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4
Red Throated Diver	Gavia stellata	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	1
Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	13	19	14
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis	_	1	_	-	-	_	-	-		3	7	2
Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	6	5	1	1	-	_	17	19	30	5	12	328
Shag	Phalacrocorax aristotelis	-	2	_	-	-	_	_	-	-	_	_	3
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	4	-	10	2	3	1	8	14	15	18	6	12
Grey Heron	Ardea cineria	2	3	3	1	2	1	1	1	-	1	5	4
Whooper Swan	Cygnus cygnus	_	15	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Brent Goose	Branta bernicula	49	58	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	32
Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	77	37	8	10	8	8	_	2	_	1	7	32
Wigeon	Anas penelope	880	30	8	-	-	_	_	-	30	45	600	730
Teal	Anas crecca	70	86	48	51	_	_	_	_	17	12	230	168
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	14	-	8	4	2	4	16	26	6	1	59	8
Shoveler	Anas clypeata	-	4	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	_	-	-
Common Scoter	Melanitta nigra	1		_	_	_	_	_	_	1	_	_	_
Black Guillemot	Cepphus grylle	1	2	7	2	_	_	_	_	-	_	_	8
Razorbill	Alca torda	-	4	, -	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-
Gannet	Morus bassanus	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	11	_	_	_
Waders	Morus bassarius												
Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus	12	8	3	9	_		27	37	50	6	26	74
Dunlin	Calidris alpina	700	400	-	-	_		70	42	122	80	900	1000
Curlew Sandpiper	Calidris ferruginea	-			_	_	_	-	-	1	-	-	-
Sanderling	Calidris alba	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	27	_	_	_
Knot	Calidris and Calidris canutus	-	-	-	-	-	_	-	1	28	1	110	32
White-rumped Sandpiper	Calidris fuscicollis	-	-	-	-	-	_	-	'	20	1	-	32
Snipe	Gallinago gallinago	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ı	- 14	6
Bar-tailed Godwit	Limosa lapponica	6			-	-	-	-	-	2	18	1	2
Black-tailed Godwit	Limosa limosa	O	-	- 120	- 48	-	-	3	4	_	10	43	2 36
		-	-		46 26	-	-		-		1	43	30
Whimbrel Curlew	Numenius phaeopus Numenius arguata	200	- 80	8	8	-	-	1 200	1 165	- 140	- 70	243	600
	'	300 550	30	0	0	-	-	200 9	9	80	70 91	700	650
Lapwing Colden Player	Vanellus vanellus			-	-	-	-	9	9				
Golden Plover	Pluvialis apricaria	800	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	105	120	2000	2000
Grey Plover	Pluvialis squatarola	21	35	-	-	-	-	- 10	-	-	4	6	18
Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula	46	-	20	-	-	-	16	23	32	43	55 20	73
Turnstone	Asrenaria interpres	18	30	25	-	-	-	-	14	18	120	32	21
Redshank	Tringa totanus	40	6	25	34	2	1	93	52	88	86	88	186
Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	6	2	1	1	-	-	-	2	9	4	7	9
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	1
Gulls	01 1 1												
Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	380	-	-	-	-	-	80	91	365	300	30	140
Mediterranean Gull	Larus melanocephalus	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	8	3	-	-
Common Gull	Larus canus	4	-	-	-	-	-	16	14	23	30	1	8
Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	3	-	-	2	-	-	2	18	8	6	-	3
Great Black-backed Gull	Larus marinus	4	8	4	2	2	4	4	4	7	11	1	4
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Larus fuscus	-	-	4	7	2	2	8	4	9	30	-	-
Common Tern	Sterna hirundo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
Sandwich Tern	Sterna sandvicensis	-	-	-	2	-	-	27	2	14	-	-	-
Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis			-				1					-
Total		3997	860	303	213	21	23	604	546	1259	1124	5207	6209



Figure 18 - High tide roost of Redshank and Dunlin at Carrig Island

3.1.5 Turtle Dove

There were strong easterly winds recorded for two days which had blown this Turtle Dove off course. They migrate to Africa for the winter During September. I was very lucky and delighted to find this rare bird for Ballylongford near Kilelton.



Figure 19 - Turtle Dove - Streptopelia turtur

3.1.6 **Chough**

A pair of Chough were seen on a number of occasions at Carrig Island near the Battery. They are rarely seen inland and have only been recorded once in County Limerick as a storm blown bird. They are members of the crow family that have distinctive red legs and bill.



Figure 20 - Chough - Pyrrhocorac pyrrhocorax

3.1.7 Wheatear

The Wheatear is a delightful little bird that can be found along the shoreline. They have a white rump that stands out when they are flying away from you. Usually seen in Spring and Autumn passing through on migration.



Figure 21 - Wheatear - Oenanthe oenanthe

3.1.8 Mediterranean Gull

The Mediterranean Gull is a relatively new breeding bird species in Ireland, which has bred amongst Black-headed Gulls at Lady's Island, County Wexford. There were 8 of these Gulls in a cut field near the Carrig Island bridge. They are similar to the Black Headed Gull with red legs and bill. However, the adult has white wing tips and a short blood red bill. The figure below shows a second winter bird seen on 21st September 2019.



Figure 22 - Mediterranean Gull - Larus melanocephalus

3.1.9 Cormorant Roost

On December 1st there were only 2 Cormorants seen during the day, which was very low as I had seen double figures on previous counts. Then, around 3.30pm a line of 16 Cormorants arrived into Ballylongford Bay. Then more and more arrived until around 4pm. A total count of 328 birds had arrived and were roosting on the trees along the creek opposite Lislaughtin Cemetery. This is the highest count for Cormorant in County Kerry and is of National Importance. This is a new winter roost site and only time will tell if they decide to stay and breed or return next winter. Cormorants are often seen with their wings spread out to dry after diving for fish. Figure 24 below shows a Cormorant close to the shoreline at Carrig Island.



Figure 23 - Cormorant - Phalacrocorax carbo

3.2 Mammal list

The number of mammals recorded was 3, which is very low as there are probably other species present that I did not record. I do not put out traps or food to attract them. Most mammals are nocturnal and are not active during daylight hours when I am surveying. I was startled when a Hare jumped out about 12 feet in front of me and bolted down the shoreline at Kilelton. I recorded the Bottle-nosed Dolphin on two occasions from Carrig Island. A pod of 7 came in very close to the shoreline in beautiful sunshine on the 1st of December. In the past I had seen an Otter along the shoreline at Kilelton. Personal comments from local people also stated that they had seen Common Seal, badger and Hedgehog.

3.3 Butterfly list

The number of butterfly species recorded was 12, which is about a third of the Irish butterfly list. The Wall Brown is becoming scarce in Ireland so I was delighted to find them on Carrig Island near the Battery. The Holly Blue has been expanding its distribution in recent years. They lays their eggs on Holly. All the other species found are common.

3.4 Hoverfly List

The number of hoverfly species recorded was 16. All species found are common and under recorded.

3.5 Flowering Plants

The number of Flowering Plant species recorded was 144, which is quiet high because of the variety of habitats within the survey area.

3.6 Fungi

The number of fungi species recorded was 2, which is low due to a lack of woodland habitat. There are probably other species present but not found during this survey.

4 Conclusion

This survey successfully recorded species of birds, hoverfly, bumblebee, ladybird, bony fish, other terrestrial invertebrates, flowering plants and fungi. However there are many other groups of living things that have not been recorded. Further recording will increase the list of Biodiversity present at Ballylongford.

There are 23 threatened species, 22 protected species and 12 Red Listed Birds of Conservation Concern recorded in the survey area. The records that were submitted to the NBDC database during this survey will help to fill in the gaps for each species map. This is part of Citizen Science and I am hoping this report will encourage others to start recording and submit records.

The habitat of these species needs to be protected to halt the loss of Biodiversity so that future generations will survive. Not only for the benefit of Biodiversity but also for the pleasure it provides to people. Recreation is very important for our well being and connecting to nature is great way of relaxing. I am hoping that people will look through this report and become more aware of the nature that lives beside us every day.

The highlights of this survey for me was finding a rare Turtle Dove at Kilelton. Watching a Hen Harrier putting up the birds on the mudflats is always exciting no matter what the weather is. Kingfisher are always a treat to see as they are so colourful. Watching diving Gannets on a windswept afternoon. Getting up close to Swallows in the Castle. Finding a new colony of Wall Brown butterfly, which are sadly declining due to habitat loss. The spectacle of Golden Plovers with lapwing in flight in vast numbers. Recording over 6000 birds in one day which, indicates a healthy environment and one that I really hope survives into the future. Discovering a new colony of Cormorants of National Importance.

Keep up to date with recent bird sightings reported on the http//: Kerry Birding Blogspot.com If you see anything of interest in the future please contact either Ed Carthy 087-2383375 or myself.

Finally, I would like to thank the people I meet during my rambles along the shoreline and around town for showing an interest in what I was doing. Happy hunting.

5 References

The following books were used for identification of species recorded during this survey.

Collins Bird Guide, [2001] by Killian Mullarney, Lars Svensson, Dan Zetterstrom and Peter J Grant

Collins Flower Guide, [2009] by David Streeter, C. Hart-Davies, A Hardcastle, F. Cole, & L. Harper

Flora of Country Limerick, [2013] by Sylvia C.P. Reynolds, National Botanic Gardens

The Natural History of Ireland's Dragonflies, [2004] by Brian Nelson and Robert Thompson, MAGNI

British Hoverflies, [2002] by Alan E. Stubbs and Steven J. Falk, BENHS

Bird Atlas 2007-11, [2103] by Dawn Balmer, Simon Gillings, Brian Caffrey, Bob Swann, Iain Downie and Rob Fuller, BTO books

Identification Guide to Ireland's Ladybirds, [2015] by Colette O' Flynn, Brian J. Pinchen and Una Fitzpatrick, NBDC

Identification Guide to Ireland's Shieldbugs [2012] by Don Cotton, Brian Nelson and Una Fitzpatrick, NBDC

Identification Guide to Ireland's Bumblebees [2010] by Una Fitzpatrick, Andrew Byrne and Bryan J. Pinchen, NBDC

Identification Guide to Ireland's Butterflies [2011] by Eugenie Regan and Liam Lysaght, NBDC

Britain's Plant Galls, [2011] by Michael Chinery, Wild Guides

Mushrooms, [2003] by Patrick Harding, Collins Gem

Face book

Geoff Hunt

Insects/Invertebrates of Ireland

Web sites

www.wildflowersofireland.net [Zoe Devlin, Identification by colour]

www.naturespot.org.uk [Identification of species]]

http://kerrybirding.blogspot.com/

Contact details

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Ed Carthy Bird recorder for County Kerry 087-238 3375

5.1 Appendix

See the following pages for images for some of the species seen during this survey



Garden birds







Robin

House Sparrow

Blackbird







Song Thrush

Blue Tit

Great Tit







Long Tailed Tit

Coal Tit

Bullfinch





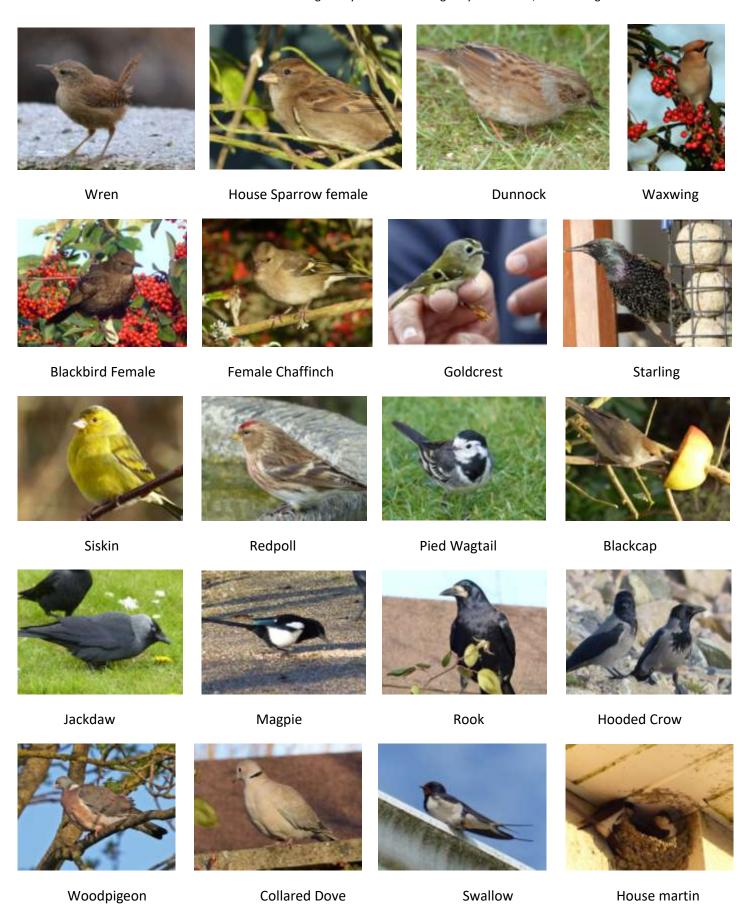


Greenfinch

Goldfinch

Chaffinch

More Garden Birds Designed by Geoff Hunt Images by Geoff Hunt, Mike Flanagan and Mark Hunt





Water Birds







Cormorant



Great Crested Grebe



Brent Goose



Mallard Drake



Mallard



Teal



Wigeon



Shelduck



Grey Heron



Little Egret



Kingfisher





Black Headed Gull

Mediterranean Gull

Herring Gull







Lesser Black-back gull

Great Black-back Gull

Curlew







Whimbrel

Oystercatcher

Redshank







Greenshank

Black-tailed Godwit

Dunlin



Insects







Migrant Hawker

INIGIONIC FIGURES

Green Sheildbug



White-legged Snake Millipede



Noonfly



Seven spot Ladybird



Marmalade Fly



Sphaerophoria scripta



Helophilus pendulus



Scaeva pyrastri



Robin's Pincushion

Bombus pascourum

Wasp

Ballylongford Plants



Butterflies





Orange Tip



Green-veined White



Large White



Holly Blue



Red admiral



Painted Lady



Small Tortoiseshell



Peacock



Speckled Wood



Ringlet



Wall Brown



Meadow Brown



Figure 24 - Cormorant roost